

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 27, 2003

MPDC MOBILIZED TO HELP ENSURE A SAFE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN DC

The MPDC is mobilizing all sworn members of the Department to help ensure a safe July 4th celebration for residents and visitors in DC. The Department will have all available sworn members working on the Independence Day holiday, supported by key civilian personnel. This is being accomplished by adjusting days off and restricting members' leave. Some of the additional MPDC officers will be assigned in and around the National Mall to assist the US Park Police, the lead agency in the operation, with crowd and traffic control around the Capitol lawn concert and the fireworks display on the Mall. Additional officers will also be assigned to neighborhood patrols, with special attention paid to communities expecting larger celebrations. The MPDC's Joint Operations Command Center, including the network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, will be activated beginning at approximately 7 am on July 4, to help monitor activities in the downtown area.

HAVE A FUN—AND SAFE—4TH OF JULY: KNOW THE LAW ON FIREWORKS IN DC

Celebrating our nation's independence and freedom on the 4th of July is a time-honored tradition in DC and across the country. But it's also a time when serious injuries associated with illegal fireworks are more prevalent. Once again during this year's Independence Day holiday, the MPDC advises the public that DC law prohibits all firecrackers, as well as any fireworks that explode (including cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, and artillery shells) and any fireworks that launch after being lit (such as bottle rockets, parachutes, buzz-bombs, pinwheels, helicopters, and jumping jacks). Fireworks that have a side fuse or that contain mercury, arsenic or other dangerous materials are also prohibited. Among the fireworks allowed in the District are small sparklers, fountains, torches and other novelty items.

The MPDC receives a large number of calls on and around the July 4th holiday. The Department offers these tips: for gunshots or fireworks that create an immediate public safety hazard, call 9-1-1 with a precise location and description of the incident; for other reports that do not pose an immediate public safety threat, call the 3-1-1 non-emergency number (and please be patient if you are temporarily put on hold because of the large volume of calls).

- ① More information about Independence Day events in DC, including helpful links to Metro and other sites, can be found at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/fireworks.htm>
- ① Check back with the DC Government Street Closures page for specific information on streets that will be closed for the July 4th celebration:
http://dc.gov/closures/closures_by_type.asp?type=4
- ① For details on the MPDC's CCTV system, including the locations of all 14 cameras, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtm>
- ① For detailed information on fireworks laws in DC, as well as useful links containing fireworks safety tips, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/fireworks.shtm>
- ① For more information about using 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm>

MPDC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THREE CIVILIAN POSITIONS IN NEW FAMILY LIAISON UNIT

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for three civilian positions that will staff the Department's newly created Family Liaison Unit. The unit will work directly with victims of serious crimes, as well as the survivors of homicide victims, to ensure they have access to the information and resources they may need in their recovery. The three, grant-funded positions include a supervisor, as well as two family liaison specialists, one of whom must be bilingual in English and Spanish. In addition to working directly with victims and survivors, staff in the Family Liaison Unit will be responsible for working with other criminal justice agencies and service providers to ensure sensitive, high-quality services to victims. The positions are term appointments that will last up to four years, depending upon the availability of funds.

REMINDER TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES: SUMMER CURFEW HOURS BEGIN JULY 1

A reminder to young people and their families concerning DC's teen curfew: beginning Tuesday, July 1, and continuing through August 31, DC's curfew starts at 12:01 am, seven days a week. This is an hour later than the weeknight curfew during school months. For the months of July and August only, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 12:01 am, and continues until 6 am, every day of the week. During the other 10 months of the year, the curfew begins at 11 pm, Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 am on weekends. Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities, such as work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities, as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. The law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. While MPDC's primary goal in enforcing the law is to reunite young people and their families, there are penalties for repeat violators.

NEWS & NOTES

Imam Joins MPDC Chaplains Corps. Chief Ramsey this week swore in Imam Yusuf Saleem as a member of the MPDC Chaplains Corps, which ministers to Department members and their families. Imam Saleem becomes the first Muslim in the Chaplains Corps.

Smooth Operator. MPDC officers this weekend wrap up Wave II of the regional "Smooth Operator" anti-aggressive driving campaign. Officers are paying special attention to speeding, red light and stop sign running, tailgating and other forms of aggressive driving. Details on Smooth Operator at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm>.

Secure the Call Emergency Cell Phone Program. The MPDC thanks the people who have generously donated nearly 200 used cell phones to "Secure the Call," which provides emergency cell phones to community policing groups and residents. Individuals interested in donating old cell phones, which will be cleaned and reprogrammed to dial 9-1-1 and 3-1-1, can drop them off at any MPDC district station or substation. Citizen patrol and Neighborhood Watch volunteers, as well as others interested in obtaining a free emergency cell phone should contact the MPDC's Community Outreach Section at (202) 727-0783. More details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/stc.shtm>.

① For complete details on these three positions, including salaries and application procedures, click on the Civilian Career page at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

① For complete details on DC's curfew law, including specific exemptions as well as alternative resources for young people, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/27/03)

- 2003: 121
- 2002: 106
- % Change: +14.1%

Arrests (week ending 6/21/03)

- Total: 758
- Drugs: 101
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 15
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 31

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/24/03)

- Total: 947
- June: 137

Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/27/03)

- 2003: 28
- 2002: 30
- % Change: -6.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

mpdc.dc.gov